SECRET

SAPC 8058
Copy ₁ of 7

24 July 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Project AQUATONE Charter and Letter of Authorization

25X1   1. ☐ called this afternoon to say that he, ☐   25X1
and Mr. Houston are somewhat concerned about the present status of our basic
operating charter. That is to say, the Project Outline, which the Director
approved at the initiation of this Project, directing Mr. Bissell to conduct
the Project itself and to expend certain funds to see that the basic mission
was accomplished, needs to be brought up to date.

        2. As I recall it, Mr. Bissell intended last fall to bring the
document up to date to reflect the difference between the tasks originally
assigned him and the mission as it ultimately developed, particularly as it
affected additional funds obligated and contracts entered into.

        3. Along with their concern over the outdated status of this original
25X1 charter, ☐ reported that as far as he and ☐ knew, there   25X1
has been, as yet, no appropriate appointment of ☐ as Contracting   25X1
Officer for the Project, although to my recollection Mr. Bissell did sign a
25X1 Letter of Authorization to ☐ directing him to engage in certain contracts
and to obligate Project funds in furtherance of the basic charter signed by
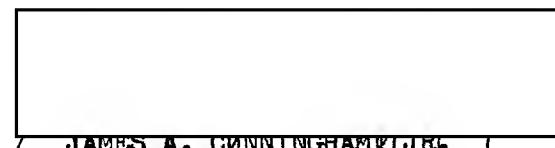Mr. Dulles.

        4. The General Counsel's Office feels that it is now time for us to
tidy up this situation and, accordingly, ☐ asked if I would   25X1
gather together whatever significant papers are in our files on these matters
and forward them to him. I agreed to do so but I feel it appropriate that
Mr. Bissell give his permission to this move, even though the General Counsel
would, by his own admission, be willing to redraft the charter and the appoint-
25X1 ment paper for ☐

25X1

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Director of Administration
PCS/DCI

APPROVED:
(For release of said papers to the General Counsel)
25X1

Richard M. Bissell, Jr.
Project Director

JAC:mah

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